

DENCO 128-5046

# THE ROMULUS ROMAN

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

**News in brief****Funds will repair pump station**

Romulus City Council members voted to hire Kennedy Industries to make emergency repairs at the Harrison Road pump station at their regular meeting Monday night.

The repairs will cost \$5,310, and will require three weeks of work to rectify, according to Tom Wilson, city director of public works.

Kennedy, which has a long relationship with the city, is one of a handful of companies that will make repairs to pumps because most are considered outdated, according to a city official.

The pump station serves the sanitary needs of the Centex subdivision. The repairs will be paid for using funds allocated for sewer repair.

**City frees money for police fuel**

The Romulus Police Department fuel budget will be expanded by \$15,000 because of the high prices of gas.

Romulus City Council members voted to amend the city budget using drug forfeiture dollars, which are collected from the seizure and sale of assets related to narcotics cases.

Forfeiture funds are expended in the community to support anti-drug activities undertaken by the department.

**Another law firm hired**

Bankruptcy issues related to businesses that have filed for protection, yet owe the city money, have become such a problem that the city saw fit to retain another firm to represent its interests.

In addition a firm hired several weeks ago, the city has hired Auburn Hills-based Kilpatrick & Associates to handle cases that may have a conflict of interest with the first firm hired.

Under the terms of the contract, Kilpatrick & Associates will be paid \$150 to \$225 per hour as legal counsel.

The firm already represents the Oakland County Treasurer's Office, and has experience dealing with bankruptcy issues as they relate to a municipality's right to collect debts, Seifman said in a letter.

Romulus City Council members voted to approve the contract Monday.

**Fire department spends grant**

The federal "Assistance to Firefighters Grant" is allowing the Romulus Fire Department to purchase additional safety equipment.

The matching grant, which requires the city to pay 10 percent of the cost of equipment, will fund self-contained breathing apparatuses for firefighters, which will cost a total of \$170,051.

Also, an air cascade system will be added to the fire department for a cost of \$21,714. An enclosed trailer to move around equipment will also be purchased for \$9,181, and four vehicle exhaust extrication systems will be purchased using mostly grant dollars.

Romulus City Council members approved the costs for the equipment Monday.

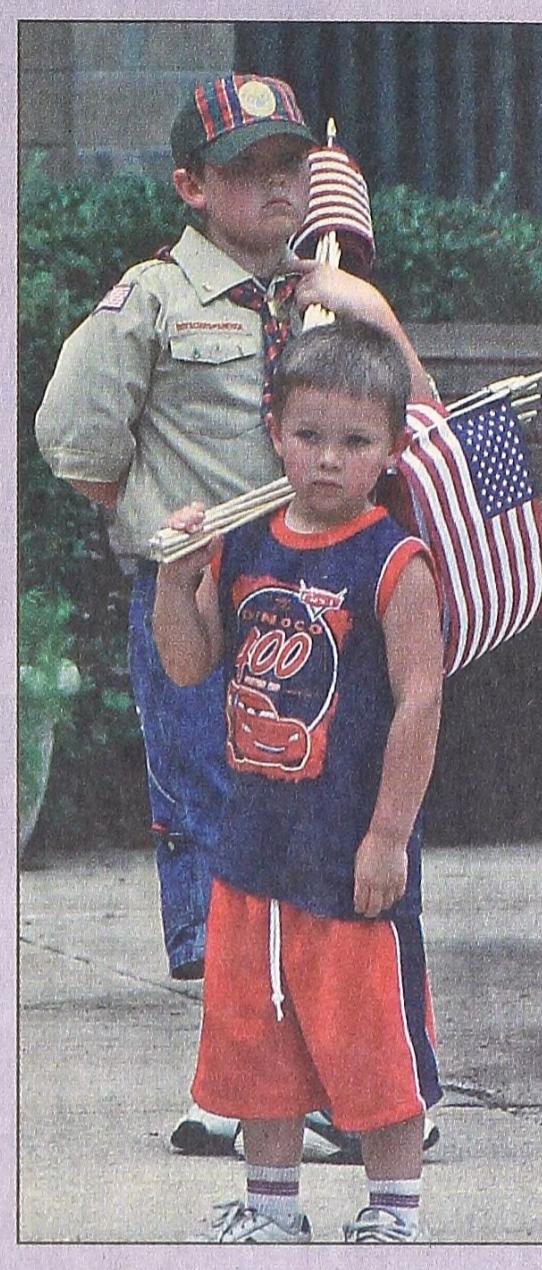
Vol. 120, No. 26

Northville official  
is named  
'Township  
Clerk of the Year'

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75¢

**Flags away**

Because Flag Day was on a Saturday, June 14, this year, it was celebrated a day early at the Romulus Senior Center and Romulus Towers. Following the Romulus Seniors Annual Picnic, the Honor Guard from Romulus VFW Post 9568 lowered and replaced the flags at the Romulus Senior Center and the Romulus Towers. The Honor Guard was led by Captain Bill Blackburn and Lieutenant Mike Santamour. There were two representatives from Cub Scout Pack 857 distributing flags for observers to wave.

Molly Tippen  
Editor**City will receive \$1.4 million**

*"We are paying our bills,  
but it's tight right now  
because of the economy  
in Michigan."*

Mayor Alan Lambert

The city will get a break from the county now that the distribution of delinquent tax revolving fund checks will be sent to municipalities.

This year, the Wayne County Treasurer's Office will pay \$1.46 million to the city, which will help provide services to residents.

"Obviously, we need the money, and we're glad they're sending it along to us," said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"We are paying our bills, but it's tight right now because of the economy in Michigan."

Delinquent tax revolving checks are made up of overdue funds owed to the county by individual taxpayers or businesses that are collected by the county. The money is then reimbursed to the city.

"I wasn't aware they were sending the money, but it's good news," Lambert said.

This year, the money couldn't

Romulus, the five top expenditures for the city are police, which will cost the city \$9 million; fire, which will cost \$2.5 million; buildings and grounds, which will cost \$2.4 million; fund transfers, which will cost \$899,525 and recreation, which will cost \$755,552.

The major source of revenue is property taxes, of which the city expects to collect \$10.9 million.

The tax check – while welcome – will not solve all of the city problems because there will likely be more delinquencies as more tax foreclosures take place in the city. The money is expected to go to the rainy day fund to partially reimburse the account for the \$2 million that had to be re-allocated for 2007-08.

"That money needs to be saved," Lambert said.

The money will help the city if there are state shared revenue cuts, which won't be known until the governor's office releases a first version of the state budget in about two months.

City officials and jobless residents are waiting to learn if a congressional vote this week will allow an Indian casino to open in Romulus.

Mayor Alan Lambert said he was informed by Rep. John Dingell's (D-Dearborn) office late last week that a vote would be called for on June 25 by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Whether the vote comes down in favor of casino proponents or individuals that have lined up against a gaming hall, the final tally will likely be a permanent answer to the casinos question in the city.

"We thought that the vote would not take place until after the fourth of July, but the earlier the better," said Lambert.

"At least we'll know where we're headed," he added.

The final vote was not available by publication deadline.

The process of building a casino in Romulus progressed earlier this year when the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee advanced a bill that would allow the land claim by the Indian Tribe to build a casino on land not deemed a reservation in Romulus and Port Huron.

A delegation of Romulus casino supporters testified about the economic development aspects of a casino Feb. 5 in front of the Resources Committee to make the point that the state needs jobs to replace manufacturing jobs that have left the state.

Although there is support for a casino from Dingell and other elected officials like Rep. Candace Miller (R-Macomb County) and Sen. Carl Levin (D-Michigan), others believe another casino would cut into the dedicated revenue stream Detroit gets from the three casinos there.

Officials from Detroit, including Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Detroit), testified against the measure on Feb. 5 as well.

Right now city leaders are confident the House will approve the legislation.

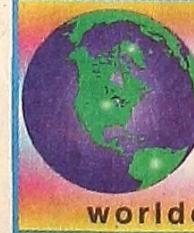
"We think this is going to be a close vote, and we know it's going to be a fight," Lambert said. "But I think it will favor us in the end."

There is a possibility that if the bill is amended, the casino would not be able to come to the city, Lambert said.

Approval of the bill would settle a long-standing land claim by bands of the Chippewa Indians. A casino development would bring at least one 200-room hotel and an additional restaurant and service businesses to cater to gamblers and travelers on site at the Detroit

See Casino, page 3

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# Senator Barack Obama Addresses Students at Wayne County Community College District's Downriver Campus

Students had an opportunity to hear Senator Barack Obama speak about education at WCCCD's Downriver campus. Following his remarks Obama spent time asking students questions about how they are financing their education and sharing his thoughts on how financial aid could be increased to ensure their success.



Senator Obama addresses WCCCD students



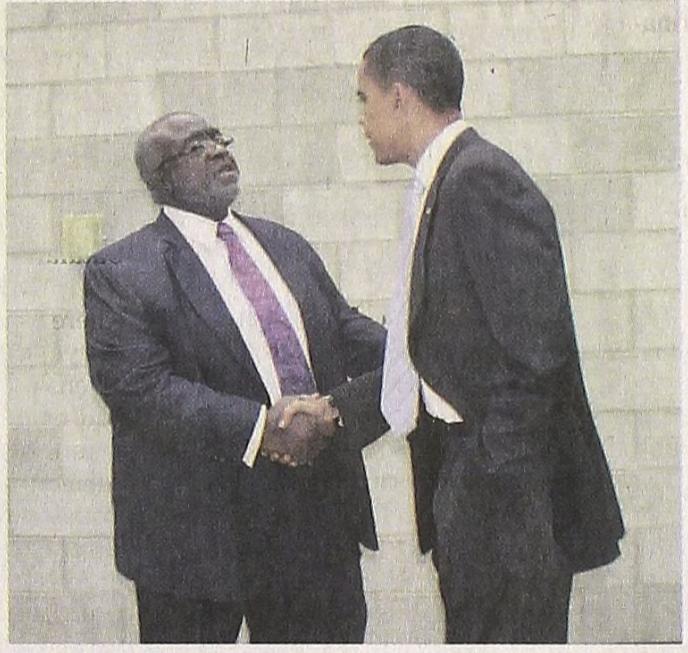
WCCCD students prepare to meet Senator Obama



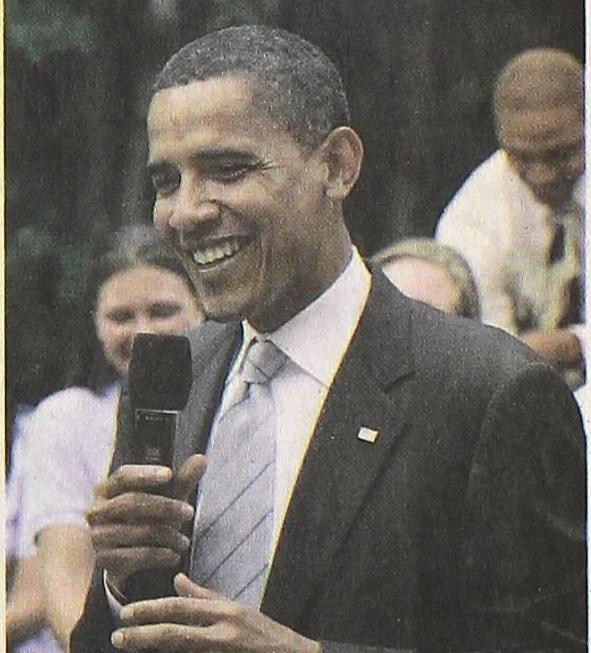
Senator Obama discusses education with WCCCD students



Senator Obama arrives at WCCCD



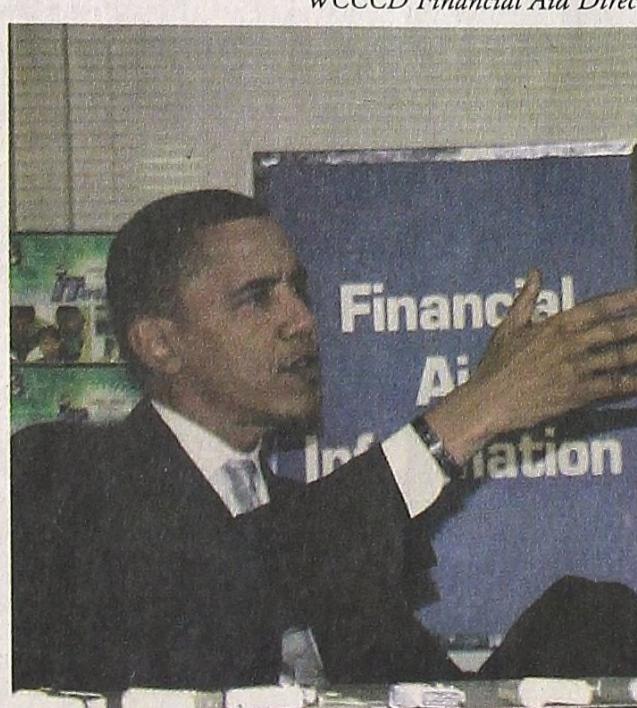
Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery welcomes Senator Obama



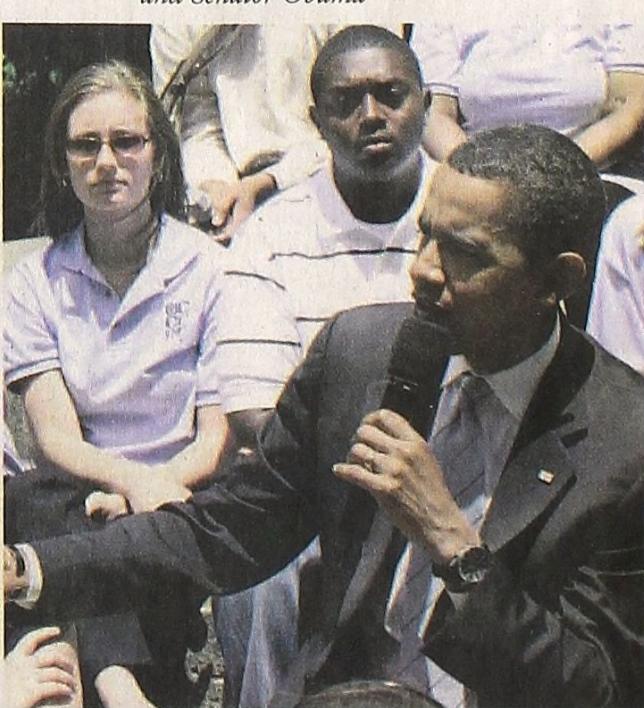
Senator Obama discusses financial aid with student Marilyn Pace and WCCCD Financial Aid Director Marcus McGrew



Executive Vice Chancellor John Bolden, Executive Dean Brian Singleton, and Senator Obama



Chancellor Curtis L. Ivery, Marilyn Pace and Taylor Mayor Cameron G. Priebe



Senator Obama thanks WCCCD students

# McNeill hopes new ideas bring creativity, prosperity

Molly Tippen  
Editor

Darrell McNeill said his claim to fame is encouraging the City of Taylor to adopt soldiers on board the U.S.S. Taylor, but he said he'd like to add more to his resume.

McNeill, a lifelong resident of Taylor, is seeking a two-year term as a State Representative for District 22. He said he's seeking election because he believes legislators need to work more effectively to restore Michigan to prosperity.

"When you look at what happened last year – the state was almost shut down (because of the budget) – that would have been devastating to residents and the state in general," he said. "I don't think there's a lot of cooperation up there, and I think we can do better as a state."

McNeill said his platform is based on job development, discouraging overzealous taxation on businesses, increasing sheriff's patrols throughout the district and discouraging students from dropping out of high school.

# OPINION

## Contributors showed real 'American' spirit

Sometimes, you can just tell when something was meant to be.

Things were looking a little gloomy on Monday afternoon as Wayne officials cast a nervous gaze skyward. Thunder crackled and lightning sparked; rain threatened and eventually soaked the streets and Attwood Park, where the fireworks show was scheduled to take place a few hours later.

"I'm always optimistic," City Manager John Zech said when called about the show near 5 p.m. He didn't want to call it off unless it was absolutely necessary.

Fortunately, the weather improved, the sun came out and so did Wayne families.

The show, put together in about a week, went off without a hitch and for a time Wayne residents were treated to a patriotic display that brought them back to simpler, better times.

Neighbors stood in their yards, talking and joking. Families trickled into the park to get a better view. The amazed 'ooh's' and 'aahs' of children filled the night.

It was a good thing.

We'd be remiss in not thanking the many people who came together to make this event happen on such short notice. Cathy Cronin at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital should probably be at the front of the line: it was a question she posed that got the whole thing rolling. She volunteered—on the hospital's behalf—to put up the first \$5,000 toward the show, which was not scheduled to take place because of budget cuts.

Other companies followed suit: Maple Manor, Law Auto Sales, EQ Resource Recovery, Russo Industries and Weiser Recycling. There will no doubt be more by the time the final

numbers are tallied.

The kudos may begin there, but they don't end there. The city staff—particularly the police department—deserves a lot of credit for rallying in a short time frame and making sure the event provided a family atmosphere. The Parks and Recreation Department, too, for coming up with a plan that ensured a successful night. The Wayne City Council members should be thanked, as well, for having the foresight to approve the event to begin with and recognizing the importance of this tradition in the City of Wayne.

There are plenty of patriotic events taking place within the next few weeks as we all gather to celebrate our biggest national holiday. Let's take time to enjoy them all and remember some of the great things about our country: good neighbors, good communities and good fun.



## School contract benefits everyone

A 'done deal' in the Northville Public School District apparently wasn't etched in stone after all.

Northville School Board members voted Tuesday night to approve a new contract with the Teamsters union; the contract included enough concessions—both in salary and benefits—to close the door on a proposal to privatize some district services.

"It's a very good situation for the district," Board President Joan Wadsworth said Tuesday afternoon.

That it is, and it's good for the district employees and—in a wider sense—the State of Michigan, as well. The last thing anybody wanted to see was long-term employees face an uncertain future with an out-of-state company contracted by the district.

*It's a very good situation for the district.*

**Board President  
Joan Wadsworth**

## Doing the right thing - dangerously

State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) knew he was taking a chance last week.

Patterson, a steadfast Republican, felt forced to vote with the opposing party on his annexation legislation—among other things—in order to do the right thing for his district and the State of Michigan in general. The 414-acre Northville Psychiatric Hospital property is in jeopardy of being annexed to the City of Livonia, and township residents and officials can't do much about it.

Patterson said he knew he would face serious repercussions from the Republican Party if he tried to force the vote and even predicted he would be ostracized for it.

The thing is, he did it anyway, and he deserves some credit for that.

The reason it was such a courageous move is that Patterson probably doesn't consider his career over.

He'll be term-limited out of the Senate in two years, but I'm sure he'll want another role after that and he'll most likely need the support of the Republican Party to get there.

Such a public break might make things uncomfortable for the party—and for him—but the way I see it, the Republicans only have themselves to blame for the rift to begin with.

There's no reason these bills, which would provide townships with greater protection against annexation, have been held up so long—other than one: the main gripe the average citizen has against politics to begin with, that special interest groups have flooded Republican party coffers with money in hopes of one day influencing a decision.

Campaign finance reports show that Bob Schostak, in some form or another, has contributed thousands

to the Senate Republican Campaign Committee. Ronald Weiser, founder of McKinley Associates—a national real estate investment company—has given thousands to various Republican interests in Michigan dating back several years, too.

The thing that really surprises me about this, though, is not necessarily the inactivity Republicans other than Patterson have shown on it, though, but the reasons they've given.

Some have said it's a Northville issue. Others have said it's difficult because it pits township rights against economic development.

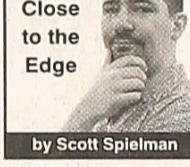
I think an average, test-fearing third grader could come up with something better than that to stay home from school.

I haven't broken out my Michigan map lately, but I'm positive there is more than one township in Michigan. Filing it under an

economic development dispute is a bit of a stretch, too. No elected official in their right mind would turn aside development these days, but no elected official in his or her right mind would let a developer come into their community and dictate their project, either.

That's what this is about, providing equality for township government, giving them the ability to do their job—to plan for a balanced, vibrant community—and to give them the power to stand up to the bullies along the way.

These are things that don't stop at the borders of Northville Township. It's an outdated law that needs to be changed and the Republicans should act on it—or at least come up with some better excuses as to why they are bowing to the pressure of special interest groups.



Close to the Edge  
by Scott Spielman

## Education is key to recovery of our state economy

Michigan is at a crossroads. Times are tough and we are facing real challenges. To get Michigan back on track, we must tackle these

challenges head-on by giving our residents the tools they need to succeed in a 21st Century global economy. States that invest in their resi-

dents are magnets for 21st Century jobs, and states that invest in their residents succeed.

The young children who traverse our hallways today are the workers and leaders of the 21st Century, and we must prepare them for what lies ahead. In recent years, the job of educating our children has become more difficult as schools and teachers struggle to do more with less. An alarming number of teachers have been laid off, resulting in overcrowded classrooms. Computers and technology, which factor prominently in today's workplace, become outdated at a rapid pace. With many schools lacking funding for new textbooks, students must make do with outdated materials. And as funding for supplies dwindles, many teachers use money out of their own pockets to purchase the materials they need for their classes.

In these tough economic times, it is even more necessary to protect our schools from deeper cuts. Tough times call for tough choices.

While some lawmakers have tried to balance

the state budget on the backs of our schoolchildren and educators, others understand the need to invest in our schools. Last fall when it came time to balance the budget, I made a very easy decision. I refused to support budget cuts that would have gutted our most essential services, including education, and instead made common-sense cuts that will not further increase class sizes and rob our schools of the resources they need.

These proposed drastic cuts would have had devastating consequences for our schools and our children. I firmly believe that we cannot afford to sacrifice funding for education. Our children's future, and the future of Michigan, both hinge on our children receiving a high-quality education.

The global economy that we live in will only intensify the competi-



Guest column  
By Richard LeBlanc  
State Representative

The contract saves more than 140 jobs and, perhaps more importantly, the family atmosphere opponents of the privatization plan lauded as one of the best parts about Northville schools.

The sad part, however, is that it had to come to this to begin with. If there is any clearer indication that the school funding formula in Michigan needs to be fixed, it is that school boards will have to look more and more into issues like this, and employees will increasingly have to give up more and more.

Make no mistake, this, like the annexation legislation pending in the Legislature, is not just a Northville Public Schools issue. Like other school officials, they've done a more than admirable job in reducing costs without impacting classroom activities; they've cut and trimmed and eaten into their budget reserves as much as they can and only went down this road because they felt they had no other choice.

There needs to be greater long-term balance in school funding; additional investment is needed to ensure that our children will be competitive in the global market and employers will see a top notch batch of potential employees as they weigh their business decisions.

For now, though, it's good enough to congratulate both sides on coming to a successful conclusion and ensuring the Northville district remains one big, happy family.

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# Northville official is named 'Township Clerk of the Year'

Scott Spielman  
Editor

Northville Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand has another title to add to her resume.

The long-time elected official and certified master clerk was named Township Clerk of the Year last week by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

"It's an honor to be recognized

by your peers," said she. "It's very humbling."

Hillebrand was first elected into office in 1992, back when the position was a part-time post. Since then she and her staff have overseen countless changes in election laws as the township population has boomed and the government offices relocated to township hall.

Township Manager Chip Snider said he was appreciative of all she

had done in what he called the most important role in the township.

"She's done a good job," he said.

Township Supervisor Mark Abbo agreed. "(She) is probably one of the best clerks in the state," he said. "We're very fortunate to have her."

Hillebrand was actually a candidate for the township clerk of the year for the past several years, but declined the nomination because she served on the board of the association. It is based on years of experience, demonstration of greater-than-average competence in the position, activity in county/state/national associations and a demonstrated interest in improving professional and personal skills and in the advancement of the clerk's profession, according to Lisa Hathaway, chair of the award committee.

State Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) said Hillebrand has shown all of that and more.

"The respect she's earned is not limited to this board," he said. "It goes all the way to Lansing."

Hillebrand said she was honored by the award, but couldn't take all the credit.

"I've got a great staff backing me up," she said. "They deserve a lot of credit."



Northville Township Clerk Sue Hillebrand was named Michigan Township Clerk of the Year by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

## Economy

FROM PAGE 4

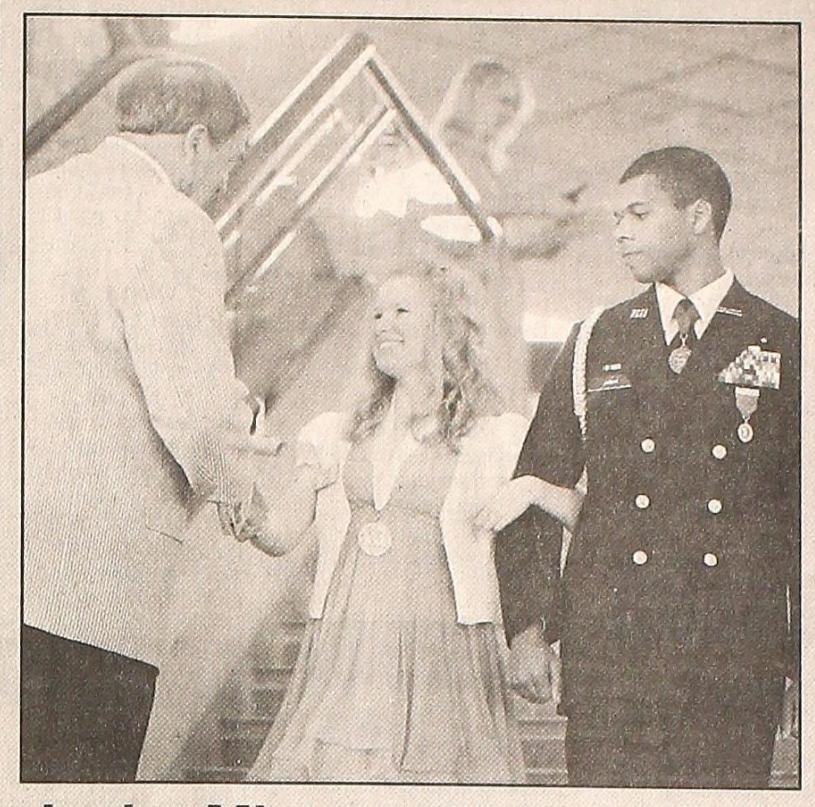
tion for jobs as we head further into the 21st Century. The students of today will not only be competing with other Michigan students, but they'll be competing with workers from all over the world. That's why

it is essential that they get the best education possible.

It's a known fact that businesses seek out areas that have a well-educated and highly skilled workforce when they are looking to relocate and expand. In order to attract good-paying jobs to Michigan, we must be able to offer companies what they want—a top-notch, well-

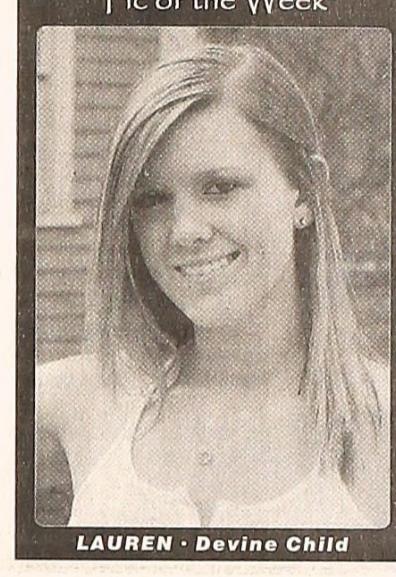
trained workforce and it all begins in the classroom. The best way to move Michigan forward is to invest in our children and give them the education they need to succeed.

*LeBlanc represents part of Wayne County and the City of Westland. He can be reached toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or by emailing RLeBlanc@house.mi.gov.*



## Junior Miss

Michigan Junior Miss and Plymouth resident Erin Wheeler is greeted as she arrives in Mobile, AL to compete with young women from all 50 states for the title of America Junior Miss as part of the annual America's Junior Miss Scholarship Program. Contestants are judged based on academics, talent, poise, fitness and interview. Wheeler will be performing a theatre jazz routine to the song "Don't Rain on my Parade". The Junior Miss program is a college scholarship program for high school seniors and is the oldest scholarship program for high school women in the United States. Finals night for America's Junior Miss Program will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday and can be seen on <http://www.nbc15online.com>.



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# CLASSIFIED

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- 108. Lake and Resort
- 109. Income Property

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- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Freebies
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

### 1. Obituaries



HARRINGTON, Debra, age 47, died June 13, 2008. She was born June 26, 1960. Debra leaves to cherish her precious memory, her son, Kemuel; her parents, Norman and Addie Harrington of Inkster; three sisters, Norman Jean (Devrick) Gones of Canton, MI, Betty (Doug) of Westland, MI and Judy Harrington of Romulus, MI; brother, Arides Harrington of Inkster, MI; two aunts, Mrs. Ollie Mae Cunningham of AL and Minnie Bell (Willie) Ward of Detroit, MI; her extended family, Howard and Margaret Thompson of Detroit, MI, Prentice and Anita Taylor of IL, Laverne Thompson of IL and the rest of the Thompson family and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Arthur Willis, Sr. officiating. Interment was at Sunset Hills Cemetery, Ypsilanti, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

MAZUREK, Angeline June 19, 2008 age 97. Beloved wife of the late Steve. Dear mother of Ronald F. (Delphine), Thomas J. (Adela) and the late Stephanie Christine Przybylski. Mother-in-law of Fred Przybylski. Grandmother of Kathleen, Ronald Jr., Laurie, Debra, Gary, Kenneth, Mary Kay, Lawrence, David, Steve, Mark, Jo Ann and Angeline. Also survived by 27 Great grandchildren and 2 Great great grandchildren. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at S.S. Simon & Jude Church, Westland, Monday, June 23, 2008 with Fr. Gerard Bechard officiating. Burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights

followed. Family received friends at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Please visit and post a tribute at [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com).

JOHNSON, LaToya, age 34, died June 7, 2008. She was born April 7, 1974. She leaves to cherish her memory her mother, Joyce Selma; father, Dwight Lee; stepfather, Kyle Selma; grandmother, Catherine Johnson and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends.

Services were held at Disciples of Christ, Inkster, MI with Rev. Jack Gibson officiating. Cremation rites were accorded. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

Services were held at Pentecostal Temple COGIC with Bishop Isaac J. King officiating. Interment was at United memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

STORY, Jeanette M., age 63 of Wayne died June 19, 2008. Beloved wife of Jerry Wayne Story. Dear mother of Stephen (Laure) Carroll and David Story. Sister of Stephen (Linda) Malkiewicz and William Malkiewicz.

Grandmother of Richard Galda. Service Monday 10 am at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood, Westland, with Fr. Jack Baker officiating, burial at Our Lady of

Hope Cemetery, Brownstown, MI. Please visit and post a tribute at [www.uhtfh.com](http://www.uhtfh.com).

### 30. Help Wanted

Industrial Engineer  
Saturn Electronics Inc. MI (Romulus) in need of Industrial Engineer. Must have B.S. or equiv. in Engineering & 2 yrs exp. as an Industrial Engineer. Please mail resume to:

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28450 Northline Rd.  
Romulus, MI 48174

Janitorial Part Time  
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Call Eric at 734-467-1900 to place your Business and Service Directory ad.



## Safety first

Elementary school crossing guards of the Van Buren Public School District were honored recently for helping to keep students safe. District officials noted during the presentation that the crossing guards are "out doing their jobs not only when it is sunny, but also during rain, sleet, snow, hale and freezing weather. They are truly unsung heroes in the children's lives." Guards recognized include: Cathy Gray of Tyler and Rawsonville schools (pictured with Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara), Jacqui Johnson of Rawsonville, Tina Phillips of Rawsonville, Mary Talaga of Edgemont and Kathy Wade of Tyler.

# Music in the Park continues

Andrea King  
Staff Writer

The Music in the Park concert series is already under way, and the musical entertainment will continue throughout the summer:

The annual concert event will take place each Sunday afternoon at Victory Park in downtown Belleville, located at the "Five Points" area of the city. Performers will start at 3 p.m. every Sunday until August.

This year performers include: the Belleville Community Band, Kevin Kammeraad, the Belleville Community Chorus with the Belleville Brass, Dan'Ree, Billy Brandt & Jill Jack, Acoustic Stories, Chris Solano and Steve Berkemeier.

Carla Gibson, music committee chair for the Belleville Area Council for the Arts, said the group has tried to make it a balanced and assorted schedule for everyone to enjoy.

"Some of them I've worked with and some of the performers are new, but we ended up with a diverse selection," she said.

Kevin Kammeraad—children's concert—will take place Sunday with a fun and interactive show that will include poetry, puppetry, and music.

"This is especially for kids," said Gibson. "He and his wife are educators, they've created books and activity guides, too, so he incorporates Michigan history, but in a quirky, off the wall type way. I look forward to that for the kids."

The Belleville Community Chorus with the Belleville Brass will take the stage on July 6,

while Dani'Ree will perform the following week on July 13. The smooth and understated Dan Goree and Craig Tyner will play some of the world's favorite classic soul, Motown and easy listening, according to organizers.

The award winning acoustic folk and country duo—Billy Brandt & Jill Jack—will perform on July 20 and, Acoustic Stories will follow on July 27.

"It's classic rock covers using acoustic guitars and one of the premier multi-percussionists in Michigan," said Gibson.

Chris Solano will perform his award winning Elvis and Buddy Holly tributes on Aug. 3, taking the audience back to the 50s and the early days of rock 'n' roll.

The Belleville Community Band will follow on Aug. 10 for a second show. Steve Berkemeier will end the series on Aug. 17 with something for listeners of all ages. He will combine an impressive catalog of original songs with a wide selection of popular music ranging from classic to country hits, Gibson said.

"It's an enjoyable afternoon, atmosphere and it's in a park setting," she said. It's different from a festival or a club, but it's a wonderful afternoon."

A food vendor may also be a part of the series this year, to include refreshments and hot dogs. In case of rain, concerts will take place at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall on Charles Street in Belleville. For more information about the concert series, contact the Belleville Area Council For the Arts at (734) 697-8123.

## 1954 PA 188 PROCEEDINGS NOTICE OF STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT HEARING

Charter Township of Van Buren  
Wayne County, Michigan

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that as a result of petitions by the property owners within the Township signed by the record owners of land whose footage constitutes more than 50 percent of the total footage of the hereinafter described as **Homestead Phases III, IV, and V** Street Lighting Special Assessment District and the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren proposes to purchase, construct and maintain street lights and to create a special assessment district for the recovery of the cost thereof by special assessment against the properties benefited therein.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the District within which the foregoing improvements are proposed to be constructed and within which the cost thereof is proposed to be assessed is more particularly described as follows: **Homestead Phase III, IV, and V** approximately 170 inclusive.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township has received a preliminary street lighting layout plan from Detroit Edison indicating three one street lights to be constructed with an annual operating cost of \$8,951.39. This plan is on file at the Township Clerk's Office and is available for examination and will further be available at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a public hearing upon the proposed street lighting project design and cost will be held at the Charter Township of Van Buren Municipal Center at 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, Michigan, commencing at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday July 1, 2008**.

At such hearing, the board will consider any written objections to any of the foregoing matters which might be filed with said board at or prior to the time of said hearing as well as any revisions, corrections, amendments, or changes to said Plans, Estimates and Costs or to said Special Assessment District.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place and to submit comments concerning any of the foregoing.

\*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations can be made available with advance notice.

Township Clerk Joannie Payne  
46425 Tyler Road  
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: June 12, 2008  
June 19, 2008  
June 26, 2008

## NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008

### To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN- WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, July 7, 2008 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

#### In Person:

At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.

At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.

At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.

At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

#### By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

JOANNIE D. PAYNE, CLERK  
734.699.8909  
46425 TYLER RD.  
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111

#### Qualifications for Registration

1. Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
2. Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
3. Citizen of the United States.

#### Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the August 5, 2008 Election is Saturday, August 2, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC  
Township Clerk

Publish: June 26, 2008

Watch for daily news updates on our website [www.journalgroup.com](http://www.journalgroup.com)

## NOTICE NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2008

To the qualified Electors of the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan:

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that a Primary Election will be held in this County, Tuesday, August 5, 2008, and that I, the undersigned City Clerk for the City Romulus, will upon any day except Sunday or a legal holiday, receive application for registration from any elector entitled to register in said City, not already registered, who apply for said registration.

Registrations shall be taken at Romulus City Clerk's Office, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan Monday thru Friday - 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER WILL BE: MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008 - 8:00 A.M.  
TO 6:00 P.M.**

Candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties and non-partisan candidates for the following offices will be voted upon in the City of Romulus, Wayne County, Michigan.

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Representative in Congress  
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County Treasurer  
Register of Deeds  
County Commissioner  
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The following Proposals:

#### Wayne County Proposal Wayne County Zoological Authority

The Wayne County Zoological Authority was established pursuant to Public Act 49 of 2008, and formed to allow for continuing zoological services for the students, residents and visitors of the County of Wayne. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.1 mil (10 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real property and personal property to provide revenue for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing zoological services to benefit the residents of the County, shall a 0.1 mil on all taxable property located within the County of Wayne be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2008 through 2017. It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage will generate approximately \$5,299,640.48 in 2008. Shall this proposal be adopted?

YES  
NO

Public notice is hereby given as provided for in Section 168.498 of the Michigan Election Law, as amended.

Every person who has the following qualifications, or who will have those qualifications at the next election shall be entitled to register:

1. Be a citizen of the United States, not less than 18 years of age.
2. Be a resident of the state for not less than 30 days.
3. Be a resident of the City of Romulus.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk  
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: June 26, 2008

# SPORTS

## New Romulus football coach readies for season

Jeff Novak  
Staff Writer

The Romulus Eagle varsity football team didn't win a game last year, but new head coach Keith Wittkopp hopes he can turn things around.

The 33-year-old coach and biology teacher has plenty of experience—including two years as the head Junior Varsity coach at Romulus. He led the junior Eagles squad to a 6-3 season last year.

Before landing at Romulus three years ago, Wittkopp was a JV assistant on a state caliber program in Ithaca New York while his wife finished up postdoctoral work. The varsity team there went to the state playoffs before losing to the team Mike Hart, recent graduate of the University of Michigan, played on. Even before that Wittkopp gained valuable experience as the head junior varsity coach and as a varsity defensive coordinator at a small school in Wisconsin where he had a total of 14 players on his team.

Although all of his travels had gained him valuable coaching experience, Wittkopp said there was none better gained than the years spent playing defensive end at Westland John Glenn under famed Coach Chuck Gordon.

"That was probably the best experience of the group," he said. "Seeing how he ran a program for 30 years was amazing. Year after year he had winning programs, and every year he could adjust the program to the talent level that he had. It was nice watching that."

In his senior year—the 1992-93 season—the Rockets went 7-2 but failed to make the playoffs under the old set of Michigan High School Athletic Association guidelines. The next year Glenn went to the state championship.

He earned a Bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Michigan so he could be a scientist. After tutoring students and deciding he didn't like working in a laboratory, he attended Eastern Michigan University to get his teaching certificate.

He got married and went to Wisconsin in 1999 so his wife could go to graduate school, resulting in the brief coaching stint and on to New York in 2002.

Once his wife accepted a professorship at the University of Michigan the couple landed back in the area in 2005. He's been teaching biology and living planet classes at Romulus high ever since.

"I got to see different programs, different

styles of coaching, different offences, and different defenses and I think I'm able to draw from all of those and bring everything together," he said.

After second-year varsity head Matt Ladach defected to Northville to coach, Wittkopp threw his hat in the ring to take over the program.

Romulus Athletics Director Mark Woodson liked what Wittkopp brought to the table.

"He's been in the program the last two years," Woodson said. "He's a hard-working person and is good with the kids and they like him. He brings a lot of experience. It also helps having him in the same building as the players so he can stay on top of them—something that Matt (Ladach) couldn't do being a teacher at Northville."

Wittkopp painfully watched the varsity team slide from a 5-4 record in 2006—just missing the playoffs—to 0-9 last season.

"I don't think we were as prepared as we should have been," he said of last season. "I would have liked to have seen a little more conditioning and little more weight training and more guys showing up. It didn't seem like the players had as much dedication as they should have."

This year, he vows, is going to be a different story, starting with complete overhaul of the offense and running a 5-2 defense over the 4-3.

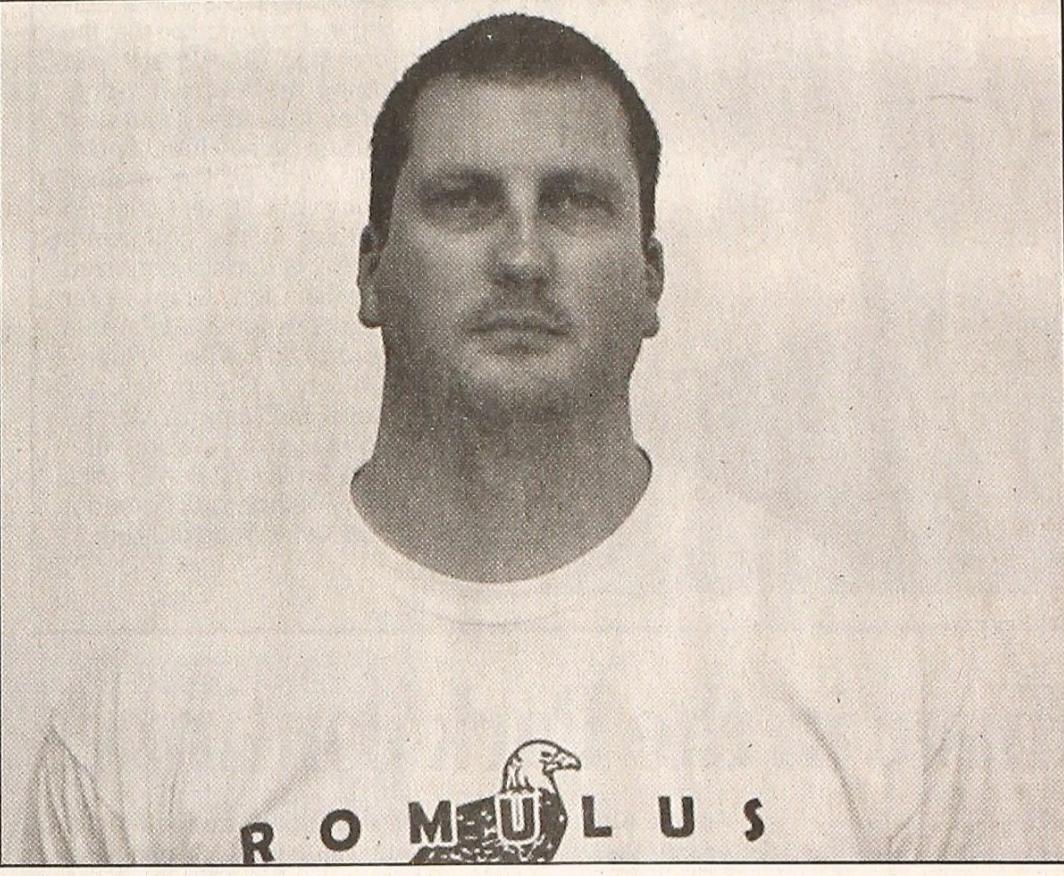
"Certainly we're going to make sure that the guy are better prepared," he said. "We're going to change the offense a little bit, which is where we seemed to struggle last year—we didn't put too many points on the board, and we're going to definitely be conditioned."

Wittkopp comes from a power-running background but brought in an offensive coordinator that has a spread background.

"We're going to merge everything together and do a little bit of everything," he explained. "With our talent pool we will try to play to our strengths. On defense I think—at least this year—we will play to our strengths of trying to stop the run and forcing teams to pass where we have the talent to pick off balls and get some touchdowns."

This season won't be easy with the transition to a new coach and the graduation of 20 seniors off of last year's roster and facing teams like Inkster, Robichaud, Dearborn Edsel Ford, Melvindale, Garden City and Highland Park in the Mega Blue Conference and Southgate Anderson, Ypsilanti and Plymouth in non-league contests.

To make the switch easier there should be



New head varsity football coach Keith Wittkopp hopes to turn the ailing Romulus Eagles around this year.

26 juniors returning this year with a majority of them having played and Wittkopp has a slew of players off of his 6-3 team stepping up to the varsity.

"Those (junior varsity) guys know what to expect from me," Wittkopp said. "The juniors next year had me for two years and the seniors next year had me for one year so they certainly know what to expect from me. They know I mean business. From there, that should lead us into being successful."

Plus, Romulus is known for its deep pool of talented running backs, receivers and quarterbacks.

He has both varsity quarterbacks from last year, Ondre Mathews and Rodney Colfield, returning. Mathews and Colfield each had valuable starting time last year plus his two JV quarterbacks, Antonio James and James Givens, are among the several JV kids moving

up to the varsity level.

Regardless of the type of program set in place, the coaches at the helm of it and the players that make the roster, there are still several other challenges the Eagles will face this season. The biggest one is convincing the kids that his way is the right way, according to Wittkopp.

"The senior group has seen three different coaches in their career," he said. "So they're coming in with some baggage and I have to convert them around to my side. We have to show them that we can be successful."

Romulus can officially start full team practices on Aug. 11. The Eagles' first contest is at Southgate at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28. The Eagles' first home game is scheduled against Garden City at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 5.

"I'm just excited and ready for the season to happen," he said.

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**TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADER IN EDUCATION**

### Parents...

Every course in school—and every lesson in life—has a learning curve, a time when we discover the basics and develop our own skills of inquiry, study and mastery.

In the Taylor School District, we start your child on that learning curve at the earliest possible age—preschool—and then layer the knowledge, relationships and skill sets necessary for them to be successful.

In school and in life.

You have a choice when it comes to your child's education.

Your best choice is here.

**TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADER IN EDUCATION**

The Taylor School District is now accepting applications from non-residents for tuition-free enrollment in grades K-8 for the fall 2008 school year.

Call 313-295-5742 today.

### ...in the Taylor School District SIXTH GRADE ACADEMY

Last year, we introduced an exciting new concept to our district—and it's quickly become a gem in the community: A stand-alone school for our sixth graders.

This technology-based facility offers an intensive curriculum while providing our young people a chance to adjust to the differences between elementary school and middle school.

### PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Our centralized Preschool Program provides the best possible jump start to your child's education. And if you follow up with All-day Kindergarten, your child will have the best possible start on their learning curve. (Preschool is available to current Taylor district residents only.)

### OUR ELEMENTARY GRADES

We reach out to children at an early age, using hands-on methods to teach science and math—and unique inquiry methods to teach social studies.

This approach can be found right through to fifth grade. And then it's on to the Sixth Grade Academy.

### EXCEEDING STANDARDS

Finally, once again, all of our elementary and middle schools have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress, the state's benchmark for student achievement, which means our entire district has met AYP.

In addition, Taylor has earned NCA accreditation for our middle schools, at both high schools and four of our elementary schools.

To register your student for All-day Kindergarten, elementary school, our Sixth Grade Academy or middle school, call: 313-295-5742 — today!

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**SPORTS**

# Plymouth dealer helps bring back boat race

Ashley Dobos  
Staff Writer

A major race will reach a major milestone this year.

The American Power Boat Association (APBA) is bringing the annual Gold Cup race to the area from July 11-13.

The "Super Bowl" of powerboat racing, is presented by the Detroit River Regatta Association (DRRA) and sponsored by the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association. It will reach a historic milestone—the 100th running of the race. Races will take place on the Detroit River near Belle Isle, July 11-13. There will also be entertainment, offshore boats, and a festival atmosphere. The APBA Gold Cup Final will take place on Sunday, July 13, at 3:30 p.m.

"We're excited about the next 100 years of speed, power, and tradition in Detroit powerboat racing," said Tom Bertolini, president of the DRRA.

Unlimited Hydroplanes will be a type of powerboat at the race. These boats have engines that generate about 3,000 horsepower that propel the watercraft to speeds of 200 miles per hour. They can travel the length of a football field in less than a second.

There will also be 15 Catamaran-style Offshore Pro Series Powerboats to enter the race. This is nearly double the amount entered last year. They generate up to 3,700 horsepower and are between 39 and 44 feet in length.

"We look at the Gold Cup as the pinnacle of boat racing and we are proud to bring our Offshore boats to the most historic race course in boat racing," said Tom Abrams, of Canton. Abrams is the owner/driver of "Reliable Carriers Inc.," a 39-foot catamaran.

"The Unlimited Hydroplanes and our Offshore Pro Series boats are very different, but we hope to complement the main race event and to bring our fans and support to Detroit," he added. "It is a little bit like having both Indy cars and NASCAR at the same event."

Along with the Unlimited Hydroplanes and Offshore Powerboats, there will be some vintage boats as well, including Jersey Speed skiffs, three-point hydroplanes, fire-breathing Grand Prix hydrods, and Superlight Tunnels.

The Superlights will be running on small courses. Part of their attraction is their ability to be both pleasure boats and being able to race in the ocean surf. The Detroit Yacht Club Vintage & Historic Regattas will hold non-competitive runs of vintage boats, represented from every decade. Some boats that will make an appearance are the mahogany unlimiteds of the 1920s, 1960s composites, and even ones from today.

The many drivers of the variety of boats compete for what's considered the crown jewel by powerboat racers—the APBA Gold Cup. This is the oldest motor sports trophy in the world—dating back to 1904. Tiffany & Co. crafts the cup, and in 2004 its sheen was restored by efforts from the DRRA and supporters.

"The Detroit River is the global epicenter of powerboat racing," said Bertolini. "It's fitting that the best trophy is held on the best course in the best city. The Detroit River racecourse is the grandest stage for the fierce competitors vying for the oldest and greatest trophy in motor sports."

Each year, the winner of the race gets their name put on the trophy. The trophy has grown in size. Since there has not been enough room on the statue for all of the winners' names, bases have been added.

"Many of the names on the Gold Cup were won here in Detroit," said Bertolini. "Winning the trophy is the highest honor in powerboat racing. Hydroplane memories for more than a century have been created in Detroit. Hoisting the Gold Cup up as a winner and feeling the spirit of Detroit and the others that have come before you to help make this sport and this track great is an incomparable experience."

Detroit is the oldest hydroplane race site in the world and has hosted more than 80 races. The First Gold Cup race to run on the Detroit River was in 1916. That year Miss Minneapolis won. Back then, the site of the next year's race was determined by the winner that year.

"Miss Detroit" was the first Detroit entry to win the Gold Cup in 1915, driven by J. Milot and J. Beebe, who averaged 48.5 mph. The following year, Christopher Columbus Smith—a boat builder from Algonac—won the cup with a boat of his own design. He then created a boat building company named Chris Craft.

In 1962 organizers of the race decided they would like to move the race around to different cities, so the APBA gave cities a chance for an open bid and presentation process. Detroit Mayor Jerome P Cavanagh formed the Spirit of Detroit Association with local business leaders. This was a volunteer organization set out to preserve hydroplane racing on the Detroit River. The group was able to get Detroit to host 11 races between 1963 and 1992.

Detroit has produced many Gold Cup winners. Among the winners was Lee Schoenith, of Detroit, who was the first person to break 100 mph while driving "Gale V," owned by his father



Miss Chrysler Jeep Unlimited Hydro U-3 will make a run at for glory at the 2008 Chrysler Jeep Superstores Detroit APBA Gold Cup, July 11-13. This marks the 100th year of the race.

Joseph, in 1955 with his speed of 102.5 mph.

A campaign was started in 1988 to move the Gold Cup to Detroit permanently. Detroit always provided facilities in good condition and attracted the largest crowds. The APBA Board of Directors named Detroit the permanent home of the Gold Cup in 1990.

Detroit holds the record for the amount of major Unlimited races in a single year, four in 1949 and 1950. These included the Silver Cup, the Harmsworth Trophy, Detroit Memorial, and the Gold Cup.

This year at the race there will be many new activities and longer hours of operation to keep the summer fun rolling on in. One of the most impressive U.S. Armed Forces' aircrafts, the FA-18, will be flown by the Navy's West Coast Super Hornet Demo Team, who will perform flight demonstrations. There will also be interactive video games and 180-degree "Immersa Domes" used during the Navy's presentation of "Accelerate Your Life Experience." The domes allow participants to be plunged into a virtual reality experience of the real world of a Navy seaman, complete with the sights, sounds, and smells.

There will also be a free "Camp Jeep" activity, where test demonstration rides will be provided on a Jeep wilderness course in Henderson Park. There will also be a variety of activities for sports fans, presented by the Michigan Hall of Fame. The activities include sports challenges and inflatables, a football obstacle course, a pro-style Wiffle ball batting cage, a full-action video golf simulator, and hockey and lacrosse skill zones in the Family Fun Zone located in the Hydromart. A traveling museum honoring Michigan's sports heroes will be there as well.

Additional family-oriented activities include a large picnic area, arts and crafts, games, balloon artists, free face painting, and stilt walkers.

"This is the 100th running of the prestigious APBA Gold Cup," said Jim Schebil, president of the Chrysler Jeep Superstores Advertising Association and president of Fox Hills Chrysler Jeep in Plymouth. "Chrysler Jeep Superstores are especially proud to be a part of this historic event, and to be a part of another great weekend in downtown Detroit as title sponsors. It's great to support exciting and fun-filled family entertainment events in Detroit."

General admission buttons for a full weekend of racing are \$15 per person all three days, children 12 and under are free in Memorial Annex Park, Henderson Park, and Owens Park. People who purchase buttons have access to the main vending and merchandising area, located behind the grandstand. Those that would like to redeem their button for an upgraded seat can trade it in for a \$15 value. The racecourse will be open until 6:30 p.m. on Friday, July 11. This day is "free Friday," which means viewing from the Waterworks Grandstands is free.

Reserved seating can also be purchased, which ranges from \$50-\$205 per seat. Other seating choices include the start or fin-

ish line, the Judges Stand for \$130 per seat, or the Pit Tower for \$205 per seat, which offers a private area and the highest view of the course.

Shuttle parking will be available over the weekend as well. Schedule and lot locations are available with detailed maps and photographs at <http://www.gold-cup.com>.

For ticket information, contact the Detroit River Regatta Association at (586) 774-0980 or visit the Web site at <http://www.gold-cup.com>.

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**KIDS SUMMER MOVIES**

**\$1 ALL SEATS**

6/30-7/4 OPEN SEASON (PG)

• WALL-E (G) 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00,

6:30, 7:20, 9:00, 9:40

FRI/SAT LS 11:30, 12:00

• WANTED (R) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25

FRI/SAT LS 11:50

• THE LOVE GURU (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35,

9:50, FRI/SAT LS 12:00

• GET SMART (PG-13) 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

FRI/SAT LS 11:55

THE HAPPENING (R) 10:35 PM

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (PG-13)

11:55, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55

KUNG FU PANDA (PG) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:45, 8:50

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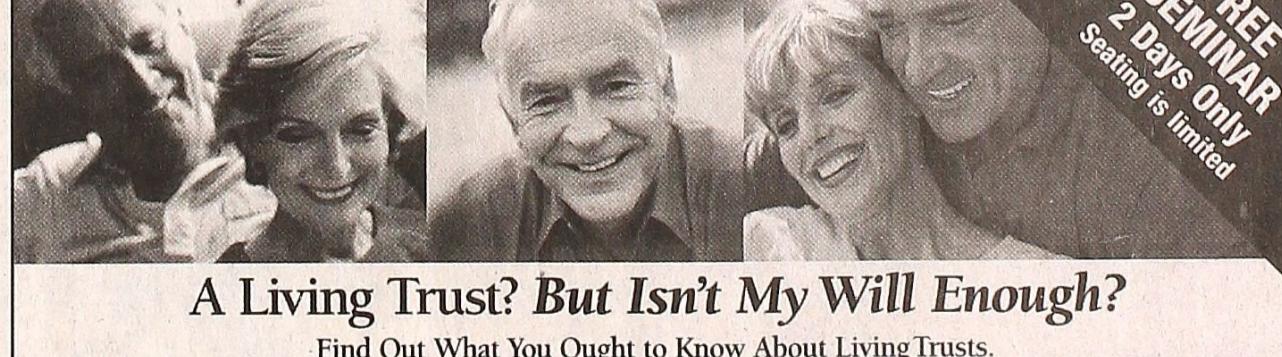
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- How a court may appoint the person to handle your estate as they see fit!
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**Tuesday, July 8**

**10:00am-12:00noon**

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**Thursday, July 10**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

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is proud to announce that it has become a Sponsor for the Summer Food Service Program. This program allows us to feed lunches to children up to the age of 18 for.. **FREE!**

**NO APPLICATIONS, ID, PAYMENTS, or REQUIREMENTS OF ANY KIND ARE REQUIRED!**

A nutritious meal will be served to ALL children who come to the High School during this time.

### ROMULUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

June 23 until July 25, 2008 • 10:15am to 11:15am • MONDAY - FRIDAY

FREE LUNCHES WILL ALSO BE SERVED EVERY DAY AT:

**CORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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**ROMULUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

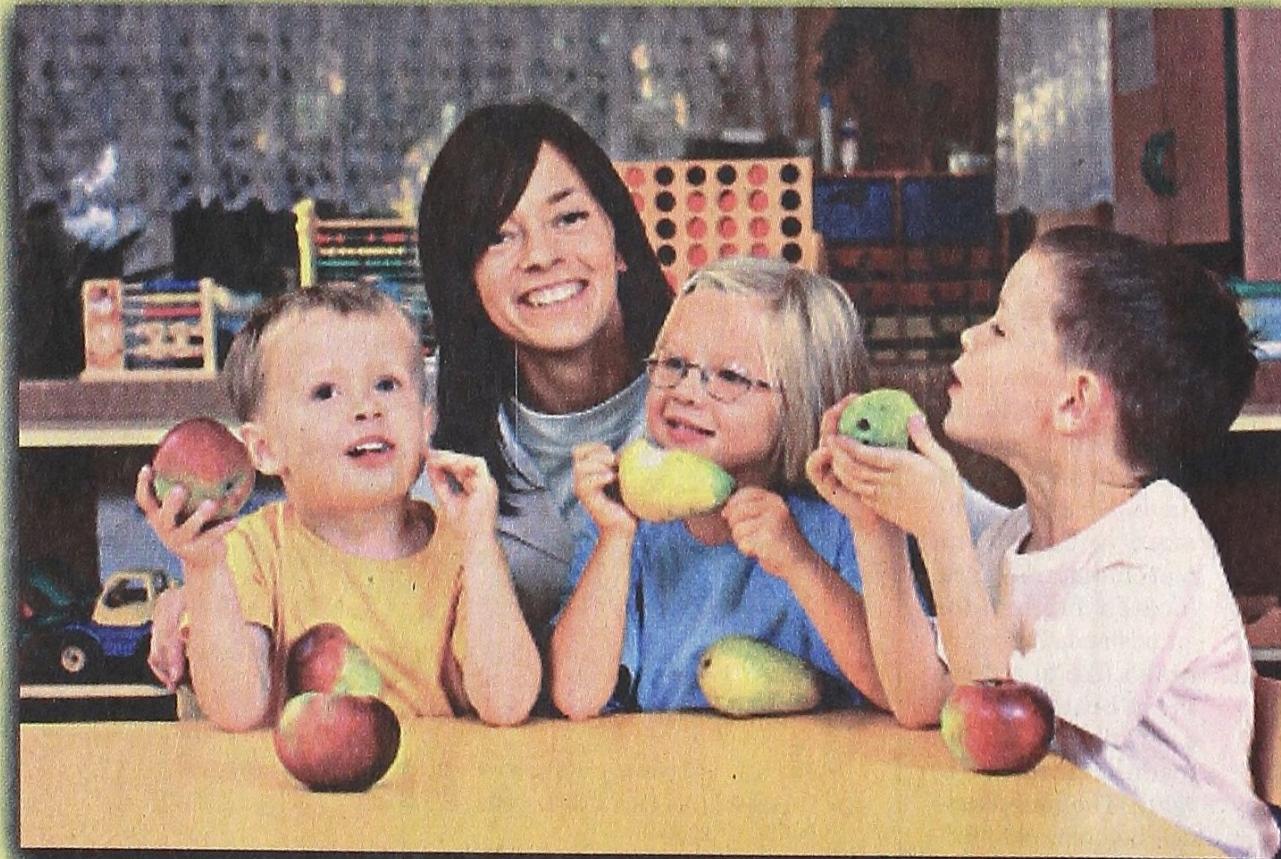
TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

Adults 18 and older can purchase a meal for \$3.00.

Adults are not allowed to touch any part of a child's tray or food. All Food Must Be Eaten On Site.

The Cafeteria will close at 11:15 and children must be out of the building by 11:35.

NO TRANSPORTATION WILL BE PROVIDED.



**QUESTIONS?**

Contact: **Glenn Newa** Director of Dining Services

**(734) 532-1144**

[newag@romulus.k12.mi.us](mailto:newag@romulus.k12.mi.us)